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CURRENT LEGAL PERIODICALS AND BOOK REVIEWS.

A TEXT-BOOK OF THE PATENT LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. By ALBERT H. WALKER. Fourth Edition. Pp. 775. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Co. 1904.

"Walker on Patents" has been for many years a standard work on patents in the United States. It has maintained this position ever since its first publication in 1883. Each succeeding edition has had the advantage of the author's personal supervision. The author states that the present edition contains more than six hundred new points of law. The cases are brought down to date and the recent statutes added. Perhaps it may be mentioned, as it is a rare virtue in a text-book, that the present writer has found by personal experience that the cases mentioned in the notes invariably support the text; in other words, that the book bears throughout evidence of the personal work of Mr. Walker.

W. D. L.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT OF 1898, ANNOTATED AND EXPLAINED. By JOHN M. GOULD and ARTHUR W. BLAKEMORE. Pp. 263. Boston: Little, Brown & Company. 1904.

Among the numerous annotations and explanations, the authors have included the amendments to the act, all the important and latest federal and state decisions, and the General Orders and Forms established by the United States Supreme Court. These latter can freely and easily be obtained in more valuable form by requesting the clerk of the above court to send them.

From its inception, the Bankruptcy Law of 1898 has been the subject of much thought and attention. It has clauses obscure and perplexing, and the notes to every such clause and every other clause in the act must necessarily have been a thing to be desired and carefully looked for among the profession. The authors have been justified in waiting a reasonable lapse of time in order to ascertain the judicial construction of each section of the act. Having carefully considered and annotated almost every clause of the act, the authors feel that they have produced the most thorough and most useful treatment existing of the Statute of 1898. We can do little more than readily endorse the introduction, and assure our readers that there is a

novel and commendable show of consistency between the cases and the statements they are connected with. "This book doubtless contains everything that the practising lawyer needs on this subject, as it combines the information furnished by both a digest and a text-book of bankruptcy law and practice."

E. H. B.

NOTES ON RECENT LEADING ARTICLES IN LEGAL PERIODICALS.

ALBANY LAW JOURNAL.—May.

Alton Brooks Parker. Charles J. Hailes. If those who are inclined to accept the newspaper allegations that Judge Parker's career has been obscure, and that the reasons for his being proposed as a candidate by one of the two powerful political parties of the country are still more obscure, will read this article, they will find that not only are the allegations untrue, but they will also learn that if Judge Parker has not occupied a more conspicuous position before the public it is wholly owing to his own choice.

He is also shown to have what we have come to consider the normal attributes for the greatest of all executive offices; he was born on a farm, taught school as a youth, and had his living to make for himself in early manhood. That he was successful is shown by the fact that he was but thirty-three years of age when he became justice of the Supreme Court. The article is clear, concise, and leaves a vivid impression of the character of its subject.

CANADIAN LAW TIMES.—May.

The Northern Securities Decision and the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. George F. Canfield. We have here another article attacking this now famous decision. After a discussion of the points in the case Mr. Canfield states, with what he considers "reasonable certainty," that "The Northern Securities decision is wrong on principle and indefensible; the United States Supreme Court as now constituted will not carry this decision to its logical consequences; the primary practical result will be that the Northern Securities Company will be suppressed, but the concentration of power and suppression of competition will continue to exist; that the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, New York Central, and other large railways are safe from attack by the United States Government under the existing Anti-trust Act; that the large industrial combinations, Standard Oil, United States Steel, etc., are also safe in the same way; that joint traffic associations are illegal, even though they provide simply for the maintenance of reasonable rates, because the union of railway companies is supposed to constitute a monopoly; that joint selling agencies for maintaining prices among competing manufacturers or trading companies are legal if not too big.

Mr. Canfield evidently objects to more than this single decision; he objects to the whole trend of the decisions. It is plain that he sees no wisdom in any of the reasons given to sustain the decision or in any of the arguments on the other side. He suppresses his impatience with them, but the suppression is obviously difficult. The line of attack is new, and the defenders of the decision may find it worth while to answer it.